

## Message Text

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51

ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 /013 W

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R 120950Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

SECSTATE WASHDC 0352

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USAIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ICS THEMATIC PROGRAM RESOURCES SUPPORT

REF: USIA CIRCULAR 15322 (U)

PLEASE PASS STATE FOR CU

1. POST APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THEMATIC PROGRAM SUPPORT PRIOR TO ANY SCHEDULING. FOR VIENTIANE PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THE FOLLOWING:

A. DUE TO FREQUENT DISRUPTIONS IN TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND CONNECTION POINTS OF BANGKOK, SAIGON OR HONG KONG, ALL VISITS SHOULD BE SCHEDULED WITH CUSHION OF EXTRA DAY SO THAT SPEAKERS CAN ARRIVE ON TIME AND DEPART AS SCHEDULED.

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SUGGEST 3-7 DAY TIME FRAME, DEPENDING UPON WHETHER PROGRAM WILL

ALSO BE HELD OUTSIDE OF VIENTIANE.

B. FRENCH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY WILL BE USEFUL FOR CONTACT WITH ELITE IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS OR WHERE POST WILL PROGRAM THEM AT OTHER THAN BNC FUNCTIONS. NORMALLY, HOWEVER, ENGLISH IS PREFERRED FOR PRESENTATIONS.

C. AS ONLY POST WITH TRUE COALITION GOVERNMENT, WOULD RECOMMEND THAT SPEAKERS ALLOW THEMSELVES TIME FOR BRIEFING ON LOCAL SENSITIVITIES PRIOR TO PROGRAMMING.

D. NO VIENTIANE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE SCHEDULED IN OCTOBER BECAUSE OF THAT LUANG FAIR EXHIBIT TIME DEMANDS.

2. REF. PARA A AND B. PARA 4: POST WOULD LIKE TWO OF FOUR SPEAKERS LISTED IN 4A, PREFERABLY CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, ANY TIME BETWEEN MID-NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. CONGRESS' ROLE, ESPECIALLY AS STABILIZING FORCE IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTIES SUCH AS NATION NOW FACES OR AS REFLECTION OF ROLE OF AMERICAN PEOPLE AS ULTIMATE CONTROLLERS OF FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE USEFUL. A CASE STUDY TO ILLUSTRATE CONGRESSIONAL ROLE, SUCH AS IN THE QUESTION OF LOCATING POWS, KIA, AND MIA IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION FOREIGN AID FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA WOULD BE USEFUL. INVITATION-ONLY AUDIENCES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS NUMBERING BETWEEN 20 -- 30 PROGRAMMED IN MISSION MEMBER RESIDENCE WOULD BE MOST LIKELY AUDIENCES. REF. PARA 4B. AS FOR U.S.-ASIAN RELATIONS THEME, POST COULD PROFITABLY PROGRAM FOUR TO SIX SUCH SPEAKERS A YEAR.

3. REF. PARA 5A. INTERESTED PROGRAMMING IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY SO SPEAKERS COULD GIVE ROUNDUP OF YEAR'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO INFLATION, ENERGY AND MATERIALS SHORTAGES. ANTICIPATE ONE PRESENTATION AT BNC AND PERHAPS A REPRESENTATIONAL OPPORTUNITY WHERE WORLD ECONOMIC TRENDS AND PROBLEMS COULD BE DISCUSSED.

4. REF. PARA 5B. POST RECENTLY HELD TRADE SEMINAR DRAWING ON AMERICAN ECONOMISTS IN THAILAND. WHILE RESULTS WERE GOOD, WE FEEL NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE SECOND PROGRAM AT THIS TIME.

5. REF. PARA 5C. VIENTIANE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN THIS SEMINAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BECAUSE OF PUBLIC POSITION BEING TAKEN BY PATHET LAO SEGMENT OF COALITION GOVERNMENT THAT RECENT MONETARY CRISIS, SHORTAGE OF GOODS, RISING PRICES AND BLACK MARKET DEVALUATION OF LAOTIAN CURRENCY VIS-A-VIS DOLLAR AND BAHT IS A FOREIGN PLOT TO DESTROY LAOTIAN ECONOMY AND OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT. FEW LAO HAVE LITTLE MORE THAN RUDIMENTARY UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. MONETARY POLICY. ENVISION THIS AS PERHAPS INVITATION-ONLY SEMINAR IN COORDINATION WITH ECONOMIC COUNSELOR. PREFER TO PROGRAM AROUND APRIL OR MAY

OF 1975 AFTER GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT ECONOMIC STEPS HAVE HAD THEIR EFFECT.

6. REF. PARA 6A. POST ALSO INTERESTED IN THIS PROGRAM FOR BNC, ESPECIALLY IF SPEAKER HAS SLIDE OR FILMS TO SHOW. MAY OF 1975 WOULD BE SUITABLE TIME.

7. REF. PARA 6B. INTERESTED TOPIC BUT BELIEVE ONE SPIN-OFF SPEAKER IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH WOULD BE ADEQUATE.

8. REF. PARA 6D. WELCOME SPEAKERS ON APPLICATION OF SPACE RESEARCH TO MEDICINE, BYDROLOGY AND LAND USE. ISSUE, HOWEVER, RATHER SENSITIVE BECAUSE OF ACCUSATION OF PATHET LAO THAT "U.S. AIR RECONNAISSANCE INTRUDING ON PATHET-LAO HELD TERRITORY." THEREFORE EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND SPEAKER ESSENTIAL. APRIL-JUNE WOULD BE A SUITABLE TIME FRAME.

9. REF. PARA 7. VIENTIANE ALSO INTERESTED IN SPEAKERS ON AMERICAN SOCIETY. ANTICIPATE WE COULD PROGRAM TWO SUCH SPEAKERS IN COMING YEAR AND WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE VISIT TO IMPORTANT CITIES OF LUANG PRABANG, PAKSE AND SAVANNAKHET. THESE WOULD BE OPEN TO PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AT BNCS. POST WOULD LIKE ON SPEAKER ON THIS TOPIC AROUND THANKSGIVING OR WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY PERIODS.

10. REF. PARA 8. POST WOULD LIKE SUCH A PROGRAM AND WOULD CONSIDER INTERPRETING IT INTO LAO AND CO-SPONSORING WITH EITHER MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OR INFORMATION, IF POSSIBLE.

11. REF. PARA 8D. BOTH BNC AND TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGES WOULD BE NATURAL AUDIENCE FOR PRESENTATION ON "INNOVATIVE EDUCATION". INDIVIDUAL WHO COULD LECTURE IN FRENCH WOULD BE PREFERRED. SHOULD BE AIMED AT INNOVATIVE EDUCATION AT PRIMARY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIGH SCHOOLS LEVELS. SUGGEST APRIL-MAY TIME FRAME WITH SPEAKER STAYING ABOUT INE WEEK SO PROGRAM COULD BE ARRANGED OUTSIDE OF VIENTIANE.

13. FINALLY, POST WOULD LIKE TO CALL AGENCY'S ATTENTION TO STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICER JOSEPH LAKE, WHO HAS CONDUCTED NUMBER OF "MAKING OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY" SEMINARS IN TAIWAN, FOR BOTH STUDENT LEADERS AND ADULT PRIORITY AUDIENCE MEMBERS, ALL WITH OUTSTANDING RESULTS. VIENTIANE WOULD BE INTERESTED, IF SPEAKER AVAILABLE AND INTERESTED, IN PROGRAMMING HIM IN SPRING OF 1975 FOR SUCH A PROGRAM AND OTHER POSTS WOULD LIKE TO SHARE COSTS. FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON ONE SUCH PROGRAM, SEC FM #55, APRIL 19, 1974, FROM USIS TAIPEI, WHICH WAS PASSED TO OTHER IEA POSTS.

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